

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Keith Ainsworth

Alicea Charamut

David Kalafa

Lee E. Dunbar

Alison Hilding

Kip Kolesinskas

Matthew Reiser

Charles Vidich

Peter Hearn
Executive Director

July 22, 2020

Melanie Bachman, Executive Director
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051

RE: PETITION NO. 1416 - Bloom Energy Corporation petition for construction, maintenance and operation of a 150-kilowatt customer-side fuel cell facility and associated equipment at the Home Depot, 89 Interstate Park Drive, Southington.

Dear Ms. Bachman:

The Council on Environmental Quality ("the Council") offers the following comments with regard to Petition No. 1416 (Petition):

1. Noise: The Petitioner states that the proposed facility would have sound levels equal to 61.7 dB at the nearest property line. However, the Petition states that if the fuel cell facility "is installed close to a building or tall wall so noise from the ES is reflected off of the structure and added to the noise from the other side of the ES making it sound louder than normal." In the calculations for Scenario 1, (with a structure in close proximity to the fuel cell) the sound level is projected to be 64.7, which would exceed the Connecticut noise standard of 62 dBA (day or night) that applies to the site.

The Council recommends that the Petitioner confirm that the fuel cell facility will be sufficiently distant from the retaining wall and the wall of the adjacent Home Depot that the sound generated by the proposed fuel cell would not be amplified by reverberation that will force it out of compliance with the State's noise regulations. Further, it is recommend that the Petitioner conduct post-construction noise monitoring to verify compliance.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. Please do not hesitate to contact the Council if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Peter Hearn
Executive Director